

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-09 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-14 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

SAL-01 OMB-01 FMC-04 RSR-01 /191 W

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R 201345 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3256

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY UNN

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA UNN

AMCONSUL MARAS UNN

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DEPARTMENT PASS INTO US INTEREST CAIRO

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD GATT IN EG YO

SUBJECT: GATT - INDIAN REASONS FOR EXTENDING TRIPARTITE TRADE

AGREEMENT

REF: GENEVA 1202

1. EMBOFF INQUIRED OF S. K. BAGCHI JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (FORMERLY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE) ABOUT INDIA'S REASONS FOR RENEWING TRIPARTITE TRADE AGREEMENT IN VIEW OF ITS LIMITED RESULTS IN PAST AND THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE INTRA- LDC PREFERENCE SCHEME. HE POINTED OUT THAT U. S. TENDS TO LOOK ON SUCH THINGS AS ANOTHER CARVING UP OF THE WORLD INTO RESTRICTIVE TRADING BLOCS, WHICH BAGCHI HAS INDICATED INDIA

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OPPOSES AS MUCH AS U. S.

2. BAGCHI AGREED, BUT ADDED THAT TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED MORE FOR POLITICAL THAN ECONOMIC REASONS, ESPECIALLY THE THIRD- WORLD RAPPORT THAT EXISTED AMONG NEHRU, TITO AND NASSER. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, AGREEMENT COVERS MORE THAN JUST TRADE. IT ALSO PROMOTES ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN SHIPPING AND OTHER FIELDS AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES. IT DOES NOT QUITE PARALLEL INTRA- LDC PREFERENCE SCHEME ON TRADE CONCESSIONS EVEN BETWEEN INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA SINCE THE PRODUCT MIX AND DEGREE OF PREFERENCE DIFFER. WITH INDIA AND YUGOSLOAVIA DISCONTINUING BILATERAL SETTLEMENT OF THEIR BILATERAL TRADE TRANSACTIONS AND (ACCORDING TO BAGCHI) EGYPT MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF MULTI- LATERAL SETTLEMENTS ALSO, THE AGREEMENT SHOULD MEAN MORE IN THE FUTURE, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND INDIA, WHICH HAVE MORE COMPLEMENTARITY IN THEIR ECONOMIES.

3. COMMENT: EMBOFF HAD FEELING THAT BAGCHI WAS SPEAKING MORE FROM HOPE THAN CONVICTION, AND THAT THE DECISION FOR RENEWAL OF TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WAS MADE AT POLITICAL LEVEL FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

MOYNIHAN

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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